

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 06800 060105Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 051926Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8543

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

S E C R E T PARIS 06800

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NAC NATO UR XA

SUBJECT: REINFORCED NAC ON SOVIET PENETRATION IN AFRICA:

FRENCH NEGATIVE IN BRUSSELS, BUT COOPERATIVE IN  
CAPITALS

REF: (A) STATE 052215; (B) USNATO 1165

SUMMARY: FRENCH COOPERATION AND US ACCESS TO MAJOR  
FRENCH ASSETS IN AFRICA NOT LIKELY TO SUFFER FROM GOF

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PAGE 02 PARIS 06800 060105Z

ISOLATION IN NATO. NEVERTHELESS, WE THINK IT A GOOD

IDEA TO TAKE CONCILIATORY LINE ON REINFORCED NAC IN  
RESPONSE TO FRENCH SENSITIVITIES SINCE LATTER ARE BEING  
EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO US ON KEY QUESTIONS RIGHT NOW.  
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY FOLLOWED EXCHANGES ON THIS  
SUBJECT BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND USNATO. WE HAVE  
REFRAINED FROM COMMENT SO FAR BECAUSE WE SUSPECTED THAT  
AMBASSADOR TINE HAD BEEN OVEREMPHASIZING THE HARD LINE  
ON HIS OWN IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH CREDENTIALS BACK HOME  
AS THE STRONG FRENCH PERM REP. WE NOTE FROM REFTEL (B)  
AND FROM CONVERSATIONS HERE, HOWEVER, THAT TINE'S NEGA-  
TIVISM ABOUT A REINFORCED NAC ON AFRICA HAS FULL QUAI  
D'ORSAY BACKING.

2. DESPITE GOF'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE IN NATO, EMBASSY  
BELIEVES THAT REALITY OF FRENCH INTEREST CONTINUES TO  
LIE IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES ON AFRI-  
CAN QUESTIONS. THE WAY THE FRENCH SEE IT, WESTERN  
COORDINATION IN AFRICA WILL BE HANDLED BY THE COUNTRIES  
WITH THE MAJOR INTERESTS AND ASSETS THERE--FRANCE, THE  
UK, THE USA AND POSSIBLY THE FRG. AD HOC GROUPINGS OF  
THIS SORT HAVE SO FAR BEEN FOUND USEFUL FOR NAMIBIA AND  
ANGOLA, WITH THE FRENCH DEMONSTRATING EXEMPLARY COOPERA-  
TION IN THE LATTER CASE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S  
CONSULTATIONS HERE THIS WEEK ON THE MAGHREB DEMONSTRATED  
HOW OPEN THE FRENCH CAN BE ON SENSITIVE ISSUES WHERE  
OUR INTERESTS TEND TO COINCIDE. IN SHORT, WE DO NOT  
BELIEVE THAT US ACCESS TO THE GOF, AND TO THE GOF'S EX-  
CELLENT ASSETS IN AFRICA ARE LIKELY TO SUFFER AS A RESULT  
OF FRANCE'S ISOLATION OVER THE ISSUE OF THE REINFORCED  
NAC. BECAUSE FRANCE'S PRESENCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN  
AFRICA ARE SO IMPORTANT TO US INTERESTS, HOWEVER, WE  
WISH TO ENDORSE DEPARTMENT'S APPROACH (REFTEL A) WHICH  
EMPHASIZES CONCILITARY TONE IN RESPONSE TO FRENCH SENSI-  
TIVITIES.  
RUSH

SECRET

NNN

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